No. 5573.149

279-282

GIVEN BY

U. S. SUPT. OF DOCUMENTS

5573 149

CHILDREN

IN THE

COURTS

1938 AND 1939

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Children's Bureau
Publication No. 280

U. S. SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
JUL 13 1942

Source tables for juvenile-court statistics, similar to those published in earlier reports, have been compiled for 1938 and 1939 and are available for reference at the Children's Bureau. They have been omitted from the published report in order to conserve printing funds for emergency use. These source tables give for individual reporting areas the data on which the summary tables are based.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
FRANCES PERKINS, Secretary
CHILDREN'S BUREAU
KATHARINE F. LENROOT, Chief

Children in the Courts

Juvenile-Court Statistics

Two-Year Period Ended December 31, 1939

and

Federal Juvenile Offenders

Two-Year Period Ended June 30, 1939

ELEVENTH REPORT

Bureau Publication No. 280

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1942

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. - - - - - - - - - Price 10 cents

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Part 1.—Juvenile-court statistics for the 2-year period ended December 31, 1939	2
Characteristics and limitations of juvenile-court statistics	2
The reporting area	3
Trend in delinquency cases	7
Summary, delinquency cases reported in 1938	9
Summary, delinquency cases reported in 1939	12
Part 2.—Federal juvenile offenders for the 2-year period ended June 30, 1939	17
Introduction	17
Federal juvenile offenders brought to the attention of United States probation officers	18
Federal juvenile offenders received in jails and held pending trial	21
Federal juvenile offenders discharged from detention after being held pending trial	22
Federal juvenile offenders placed on probation and those received under sentence in jails and in Federal institutions	25
Map.—Geographic distribution of areas that reported juvenile-court statistics in 1939	28

Children in the Courts, 1938 and 1939[1]

INTRODUCTION

The present report is the eleventh in the series of juvenile-court statistics and the sixth in the series on Federal juvenile offenders. The Children's Bureau plan for the collection and analysis of juvenile-court statistics was inaugurated in 1926 and the analysis of data concerning Federal juvenile offenders was initiated by the Children's Bureau in 1932. The publication of statistics on Federal juvenile offenders is a continuation of the cooperation of the Children's Bureau with the Department of Justice in furthering the program for the treatment of Federal juvenile offenders according to juvenile-court principles.

Each part of the report consists of an introductory discussion followed by statistical tables. Interpretative discussions similar to those presented in reports from 1927 to 1937 on juvenile-court statistics have been omitted from the present report.

The material presented in Part 1, Juvenile-Court Statistics for the 2-Year Period Ended December 31, 1939, deals primarily with delinquency cases disposed of by the courts.[2] Totals of dependency and neglect and special-proceedings cases dealt with by these courts are presented in table 4 (p. 6). The tabulations are based on data received from the courts that cooperate with the Children's Bureau in its plan for uniform reporting of juvenile-court statistics.

Part 2, Federal Juvenile Offenders for the 2-Year Period Ended June 30, 1939, presents information concerning juveniles under 18 years of age who violated Federal laws and came to the attention of Federal authorities during this period. The statistics presented have been collected by the Bureau of Prisons of the Department of Justice. These cases are not included in the statistics obtained from juvenile courts, unless Federal jurisdiction is waived and arrangements are made for these juvenile offenders to be dealt with under State law in their home communities.

The analysis in part 1 of cases dealt with by the juvenile courts is based on reports of cases disposed of, whereas the statistics in part 2 for Federal juvenile offenders are based on reports assembled at different stages in the handling of the cases.

[1] Material compiled in the Division of Statistical Research of the Children's Bureau.

[2] These are cases in which a child is referred to a juvenile court for one or more of the following reasons: Automobile stealing, burglary or unlawful entry, hold-up, other stealing, truancy, running away, being ungovernable, sex offense, injury to person, act of carelessness or mischief, traffic violation, and other miscellaneous reasons.

PART 1.—JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS FOR THE 2-YEAR PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1939

CHARACTERISTICS AND LIMITATIONS OF JUVENILE-COURT STATISTICS

The expansion and strengthening of services for socially handicapped children that have occurred in recent years lend particular interest to statistics relating to the extent of juvenile delinquency. There is a growing public understanding of delinquency as a form of social maladjustment requiring specialized treatment in a unified and comprehensive community child-welfare program, of which the juvenile court forms a part. The fact that juvenile-court statistics constitute the most comprehensive data that are collected on a Nation-wide scale concerning juvenile delinquency makes especially important the adequate understanding of the limitations of those statistics.

Statistics relating to the work of the courts in dealing with juvenile-delinquency cases are characterized by a number of limitations. In the first place the number of delinquency cases disposed of by the courts does not constitute a complete measure of the extent of juvenile delinquency. Many children whose conduct is contrary to the law never come into court. They may not be apprehended, or they may be dealt with by the police, social agencies, or school authorities. The extent to which the police deal with children varies greatly from community to community. In some cities practically all children coming to the attention of the police are referred to the juvenile court; in others the police handle many children's cases that involve minor offenses.

The visiting teachers and child-welfare workers who are now at work in many communities as part of the school system and of public child-welfare programs are dealing with numerous problems of behavior and social maladjustment among children. Group-work agencies, private-welfare agencies, and sectarian groups also provide services to problem children and their families.

The number of cases brought before the court is also influenced by factors such as the personnel and facilities of the court and the concept of the community, the social agencies, local officials, and of the court itself with regard to the function of the juvenile court.

Several other limitations characterize juvenile-court statistics. In the first place, the figures refer to the number of cases of children dealt with by the juvenile courts rather than the number of children. Some of the children may have been brought before the courts more than once during the year, and in the tables of this report such children are counted as many times as they were referred to court on new complaints. The figures, therefore, should not be interpreted as representing the number of delinquent children.

In the second place the juvenile-court laws in operation in each State determine the age limits within which children may be referred to the court. The age limit for children coming under juvenile-court jurisdiction is established by State law and in most instances is uniform throughout a State. Of the 473 courts reporting in 1939, 79 [3] had jurisdiction in delinquency cases over children up to 16 years of age; 244 had jurisdiction up to 17 years of age; 76 had jurisdiction up to 18 years of age, and 4, up to 21 years of age. In addition to these the 67 Indiana courts had jurisdiction over boys up to 16 years of age and over girls up to 18 years of age, and 3 Texas courts had jurisdiction over boys up to 17 years of age and over girls up to 18 years of age. Table 15 (p. 16) shows the effect of the legal age limitations under which the courts had original jurisdiction on the age distribution of the children whose cases were disposed of.

In the third place the number of delinquency cases reported by the court is affected to a considerable extent by variations in the policies of courts in the manner of handling cases. In addition to handling cases officially—that is, by filing legal papers for the initiation of court action—many courts handle certain cases unofficially. Unofficial cases are those in which legal papers are not prepared, but the cases are adjusted by the judge, referee, probation officer, or other officer of the court. Although some of the courts have records of their unofficial cases and report data regarding them, others do not keep comparable records of these cases and, therefore, report only the cases that are handled officially. Thus some of the figures included in this report represent the total delinquency cases handled by the court while others represent only a part of the cases. This variation in the policies of the reporting courts results in a degree of incomparability of data from court to court arising from the fact that the cases handled unofficially usually do not present the same types of problems as those handled officially.

All these factors must be taken into consideration in interpreting reports of the work of juvenile courts.

Data regarding juvenile-delinquency cases are reported to the Children's Bureau under two systems—either directly by individual courts or under a State-wide system sponsored by a State agency. Courts reporting directly send to the Bureau either a card for each delinquency case disposed of during the year or a summary report for all delinquency cases disposed of during the year. Courts reporting under the State-wide plan report directly to the State agency concerned with juvenile-court work or probation service; the State office then forwards to the Children's Bureau an annual report for each court in the State.

THE REPORTING AREA

The area served by the juvenile courts that reported to the Children's Bureau for the calendar year 1939 included 38 percent and for 1938, 39 percent, of the total population of the United States in 1940. The area covered was somewhat larger in these 2 years than in 1937

[3] The 12 reporting courts in Rhode Island have jurisdiction over juvenile delinquents under 16 years of age and over wayward children under 18 years of age.

because of the addition of certain courts located in Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York, and Ohio. The reporting area for 1939 included the entire population of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Utah, and the District of Columbia; the greater part of the population of Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, and New York; two-thirds of the population of Ohio; and 35 courts in 20 other States.[4]

The reporting area for 1938 included 476 courts, of which 93 served areas of 100,000 or more population. The reporting area for 1939 included 473 courts, of which 92 served areas of 100,000 or more population. With 3 exceptions the same courts serving areas of 100,000 or more population reported in both years.[5]

The map on the cover shows the areas from which reports were received for the calendar year 1939. The reporting courts were located in each of the geographic divisions of the United States, although the number included in the geographic divisions varied considerably (table 1). These variations may be attributed in part

TABLE 1.—*Population of the United States and of areas served by juvenile courts that reported in 1939 in each geographic division*

Geographic division	Population of the United States[1]		Areas served by courts		
	Number	Percent	Number of courts reporting	Population	
				Number	Percent
Total	131,669,275	100.0	473	50,066,424	100.0
New England	8,437,290	6.4	87	5,614,718	11.2
Middle Atlantic	27,539,487	20.9	58	17,718,561	35.4
East North Central	26,626,342	20.2	180	12,634,332	25.2
West North Central	13,516,990	10.3	118	4,891,309	9.8
South Atlantic	17,823,151	13.5	8	2,605,232	5.2
East South Central	10,778,225	8.2	1	141,974	.3
West South Central	13,064,525	9.9	8	1,498,629	3.0
Mountain	4,150,003	3.2	7	550,310	1.1
Pacific	9,733,262	7.4	6	4,411,359	8.8

[1] According to the 1940 census.

to the degree of development of State facilities for juvenile-court work. Primarily, however, they may be attributed to the fact that the area from which juvenile-court statistics are reported has not been selected for geographical representativeness, nor by the use of any other sampling technique. The individual courts have been included in the reporting area when they expressed a desire to cooperate with the Children's Bureau in its plan to develop a uniform reporting system for juvenile-court statistics. Most of the States reporting under a State-wide system are limited to those that have some provision by statute for reporting collection of statistics by the State agency concerned with juvenile-court or probation work. Not all the States having such statutory powers, however, are included in the reporting area.

[4] The percentage of the 1940 population included in the 1939 reports from these States was as follows: Indiana, 86 percent; Michigan, 83 percent; Missouri, 97 percent; New York, 98 percent; Ohio, 66 percent.

[5] Two Ohio courts—Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) and Lucas County (Toledo)—reported in 1938 but not in 1939. The court in Bexar County, Tex. (San Antonio), reported in 1939 but not in 1938.

The reporting area for 1939 as for earlier years was particularly representative of the large urban areas. Data presented for 1939 in table 2 indicate that 77 percent of the population served by the courts in the total area in 1939 was located in areas of 100,000 or more

TABLE 2.—*Number of courts reporting in 1939 and percentage of population served by cooperating courts, by size of area*

Population of area	Number of courts	Population of areas served by courts [1]	
		Number	Percent
Total	473	50,066,424	100.0
1,000,000 or more	5	15,599,134	31.2
500,000 to 999,999	[2] 18	7,742,105	15.5
250,000 to 499,999	21	7,344,941	14.7
100,000 to 249,999	48	7,668,926	15.3
50,000 to 99,999	65	4,608,993	9.2
25,000 to 49,999	113	3,958,251	7.9
10,000 to 24,999	170	2,904,384	5.8
5,000 to 9,999	28	219,876	.4
Less than 5,000	5	19,814	[3]

[1] According to the 1940 census.
[2] The courts of Boston are counted as 8 separate courts although the city is included as a unit in the group 500,000 to 999,999.
[3] Less than 1/10 of 1 percent.

TABLE 3.— *Number of courts reporting juvenile-court statistics through a State agency, number reporting directly to the Children's Bureau, and number of States represented, 1927–39*

Year	Courts reporting—							States [1] represented by courts reporting—		
	Total	Through a State agency			Directly to the Children's Bureau			Total	Through a State agency [2]	Directly to the Children's Bureau
		Total courts [2]	Courts serving areas with 100,000 or more population [3]	Courts serving areas with less than 100,000 population [3]	Total courts	Courts serving areas with 100,000 or more population [3]	Courts serving areas with less than 100,000 population [3]			
1927	43				43	27	16	16		16
1928	65	7	1	6	58	31	27	17	1	16
1929	96	7	1	6	89	33	56	21	1	20
1930	92	8	1	7	84	36	48	24	1	23
1931	169	97	4	93	72	39	33	24	2	22
1932	267	218	35	183	49	33	16	25	4	21
1933	284	239	48	191	45	32	13	27	6	21
1934	334	294	44	250	40	30	10	26	6	20
1935	398	359	49	310	39	31	8	27	7	20
1936	384	349	50	299	35	28	7	26	7	19
1937	462	419	52	367	43	35	8	31	8	23
1938	476	442	63	379	34	30	4	29	8	21
1939	473	437	61	376	36	31	5	29	8	21

[1] Including the District of Columbia.
[2] In most of the States in which reporting has been made through a State agency the reporting courts have served areas representing more than 80 percent of the population of the States. Within each State, however, slight changes have occurred from year to year in the number of courts reporting and in the percentage of the population included.
[3] Population for years 1927–37 are based on the 1930 census and for 1938 and 1939, on the 1940 census.

population. The area included 57 of the 92 cities in the United States that had a population of 100,000 or more in 1940.

Tables 3 and 4 show the changes during the 13-year period, from 1927 through 1939, in the number of courts cooperating and the number of cases disposed of by the courts. Table 3 gives the number of courts reporting under a State-wide system through a State agency and the number reporting directly to the Children's Bureau; it also shows the number of States represented.

Table 4 gives the number of delinquency, dependency and neglect, and special-proceedings cases reported by the courts. The number of cooperating courts has increased from 43 in 1927 to 473 in 1939; the number of delinquency cases reported increased from 30,363 in 1927 to 83,758 in 1939. The extension in the reporting area has resulted primarily from the increase in State-wide reporting of juvenile-court work. During the early years of the project, data were received for the most part through cooperation directly with individual courts.

TABLE 4.—*Number of cases of specified types reported by juvenile courts, 1927–39*

Year	Number of courts reporting	Cases			
		Total	Delinquency	Dependency and neglect [1]	Special proceedings [2]
1927	43	42,915	30,363	12,552	----------
1928	65	55,171	38,882	16,289	----------
1929	96	65,117	46,312	18,805	----------
1930	92	75,401	53,757	20,711	933
1931	169	83,313	59,880	22,317	1,116
1932	267	89,680	65,274	23,235	1,171
1933	284	90,836	68,039	21,605	1,192
1934	334	90,300	66,651	22,499	1,150
1935	398	96,696	71,475	24,019	1,202
1936	384	88,236	63,320	23,599	1,317
1937	462	103,535	78,688	23,546	1,301
1938	476	108,054	77,289	27,816	2,949
1939	473	107,874	83,758	22,429	1,687

[1] Dependency and neglect cases handled by juvenile courts include cases of children referred because of inadequate care or support from parents or guardians, abandonment or desertion, abuse or cruel treatment, living under conditions injurious to morals, and being physically handicapped and in need of public care.

[2] Special-proceedings cases were not reported prior to 1930. They include cases of petitions for commitment of feeble-minded children, adoption cases, controversies regarding custody of a child, children held as material witnesses, and certain other types of cases.

As the program developed, however, cooperation with State agencies concerned with juvenile-court work or probation service was emphasized. This emphasis on reporting through a State agency is in accordance with the general policy of the Children's Bureau of working with and through State agencies wherever possible. Through the interest of the Juvenile Court Commission of Utah, that State has been able since 1928 to furnish reports under a State-wide system. The State of Connecticut was added to the reporting area in 1931;[6] Massachusetts and New York began reporting under the State-wide type of plan in 1932; Rhode Island, in 1933; Indiana, in 1934; Michigan, in 1935; Missouri, in 1937; and Ohio, in 1938. It is hoped that the gradual extension of State-wide reporting of juvenile-court statistics will afford a foundation for more adequate statistics on juvenile delinquency as dealt with by the courts.

[6] Connecticut was unable to report on a State-wide basis in 1938 and 1939. Reporting was resumed in 1940.

TREND IN DELINQUENCY CASES

The trend in delinquency cases disposed of by juvenile courts from 1933 to 1939 may be judged on the basis of reports from 67 courts serving areas of 100,000 or more population that reported comparable statistics throughout that period (table 5). These are the only courts in that population group that reported continuously during those years. The population of the area served by the courts represented 23 percent of the total population of the United States in 1940.

In the areas served by these 67 courts that have reported continuously since 1933 the number of delinquency cases in 1939 was 6 percent greater than in 1938 and approximately equal to the number disposed of in 1937. The 1939 total was somewhat higher than the 1936 figure but lower than that for 1933, 1934, or 1935. The number of cases reported in 1939 was 4 percent less than the number reported in 1933. As stated under Characteristics and Limitations of Juvenile-Court Statistics, trends based upon delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts are not necessarily indicative of trends of delinquency cases generally.

TABLE 5.—*Number of delinquency cases disposed of by 67 courts that served specified areas of 100,000 or more population, 1933–39* [1]

Area served by court	Delinquency cases						
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Total cases	53,925	53,419	52,076	47,368	51,983	48,985	51,994
Alabama: Mobile County	165	222	193	136	125	95	123
California:							
San Diego County	1,327	1,415	1,694	1,547	1,758	2,045	2,102
San Francisco (city and county)	659	603	810	589	795	654	623
Connecticut:							
Bridgeport (city)	378	589	362	311	324	237	256
Hartford (city)	671	640	699	553	620	482	479
District of Columbia	1,646	1,705	1,836	1,474	1,431	1,867	2,723
Florida: Dade County	512	355	514	605	604	816	573
Georgia: Fulton County	1,039	1,006	1,547	1,216	1,250	1,121	1,049
Indiana:							
Lake County	290	343	380	288	235	244	247
Marion County	835	951	1,118	1,035	1,082	617	425
Vanderburgh County	83	169	235	319	211	153	171
Iowa: Polk County	605	714	391	330	674	566	453
Louisiana:							
Caddo Parish	343	415	357	296	349	281	280
Orleans Parish	838	1,003	849	1,009	799	759	838
Maryland: Baltimore (city)	3,073	3,122	2,798	2,626	2,518	2,231	2,279
Massachusetts:							
Boston:							
Boston (central section)	828	688	622	519	511	544	372
Brighton	72	57	52	38	41	26	38
Charlestown	93	127	107	93	52	75	78
Dorchester	146	185	194	138	208	197	140
East Boston	351	366	327	222	263	258	267
Roxbury	292	340	327	345	394	486	356
South Boston	188	244	235	144	164	129	128
West Roxbury	132	148	100	138	108	141	110
Central district of Worcester	385	357	325	300	330	334	365
East Norfolk district	178	204	165	126	162	147	124
First district of eastern Middlesex	257	277	258	151	229	146	169
Lawrence district	107	128	94	76	116	70	79
Lowell district	148	170	135	139	155	112	115
Second district of Bristol	243	217	213	179	198	149	121
Somerville district	90	105	96	84	83	84	76
Southern Essex district	119	159	164	114	126	118	111
Springfield district	243	210	269	255	192	166	169
Third district of Bristol	175	238	231	193	193	145	212
Third district of eastern Middlesex	251	291	369	245	230	138	92
Michigan:							
Kent County	470	403	444	476	521	442	420
Wayne County	2,615	2,491	2,289	2,167	2,307	1,854	1,885

[1] Population according to the 1940 census.

TABLE 5.—*Number of delinquency cases disposed of by 67 courts that served specified areas of 100,000 or more population, 1933–39*—Continued

Area served by court	Delinquency cases						
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Minnesota: Hennepin County	940	1,089	1,128	1,048	1,256	1,232	1,310
New Jersey: Hudson County	876	868	649	464	533	321	357
New York:							
Albany County	398	404	372	502	456	369	323
Broome County	124	175	164	149	164	146	129
Chautauqua County	134	160	218	151	188	167	128
Erie County	591	1,181	1,008	798	985	807	866
Monroe County	171	189	236	161	198	149	160
New York (city)	7,727	6,292	6,070	5,127	4,758	4,850	5,265
Niagara County	141	192	131	114	203	78	105
Oneida County	291	263	252	268	255	199	228
Rensselaer County	134	195	177	221	207	233	225
Schenectady County	179	142	151	123	166	90	121
Suffolk County	91	71	63	84	94	72	84
Westchester County	397	408	358	337	351	252	365
North Carolina: Buncombe County	361	248	227	167	86	83	157
Ohio:							
Franklin County	1,392	1,666	1,951	1,379	1,299	1,157	1,183
Hamilton County	2,298	2,044	2,360	2,531	3,160	3,321	3,436
Mahoning County	1,892	1,887	1,206	1,525	1,969	1,650	1,384
Montgomery County	454	429	558	833	1,018	1,112	1,188
Oregon: Multnomah County	993	1,101	969	1,068	672	832	889
Pennsylvania:							
Allegheny County	738	881	796	900	1,312	1,493	1,841
Berks County	83	101	74	94	115	117	124
Montgomery County	80	77	53	92	103	99	128
Philadelphia (city and county)	6,787	6,461	5,735	4,688	5,332	4,507	5,313
Rhode Island: Sixth district	208	162	190	245	235	197	200
South Carolina: Greenville County	107	104	198	149	219	191	241
Utah: Third district	1,093	917	964	846	1,073	997	1,111
Virginia: Norfolk (city)	861	696	728	636	622	833	679
Washington:							
Pierce County	189	239	165	198	227	145	174
Spokane County	592	638	563	632	538	511	512
Wisconsin: Milwaukee County	3,756	3,482	3,563	3,362	4,831	4,846	5,720

SUMMARY, DELINQUENCY CASES REPORTED IN 1938

During 1938, 77,289 delinquency cases were disposed of by 476 juvenile courts that served areas representing 39 percent of the total population of the United States. Of these, 84 percent were boys' cases and 16 percent were girls' cases. This proportion is practically the same from year to year. White children were involved in 79 percent of the cases, Negro children in 20 percent, and children of other races in 1 percent.

TABLE 6.—*Race, nativity, and parent nativity of boys and of girls dealt with in delinquency cases disposed of by 476 courts, 1938*

Race, nativity, and parent nativity of child	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	77,289	64,807	12,482			
Race reported	71,523	59,713	11,810	100	100	100
White	56,432	47,292	9,140	79	79	77
Native	42,500	35,858	6,642	59	60	56
Native parentage	28,035	23,495	4,540	39	39	39
Foreign or mixed parentage	11,771	10,305	1,466	16	17	12
Parentage not reported	2,694	2,058	636	4	4	5
Foreign born	557	462	95	1	1	1
Nativity not reported	13,375	10,972	2,403	19	18	20
Negro	14,450	11,896	2,554	20	20	22
Other race [1]	641	525	116	1	1	1
Race not reported	5,766	5,094	672			

[1] Mexican children were tabulated as "other" in 1938 by the Los Angeles court. In other years they have been tabulated as "white."

TABLE 7.—*Age of boys and of girls when referred to court in delinquency cases disposed of by 476 courts, 1938*

Age of child when referred to court	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	77,289	64,807	12,482			
Age reported	74,951	62,999	11,952	100	100	100
Under 10 years	2,935	2,601	334	4	4	3
10 years, under 12	6,642	6,140	502	9	10	4
12 years, under 14	15,126	13,289	1,837	20	21	15
14 years, under 16	29,849	24,604	5,245	40	39	44
16 years, under 18	18,614	14,988	3,626	25	24	30
18 years and over	1,785	1,377	408	2	2	4
Age not reported	2,338	1,808	530			

In almost two-thirds of the boys' cases (63 percent) and in almost three-fourths of the girls' cases (72 percent) in which court experience was reported the children had had no previous court experience. Reasons for reference of boys' cases differed considerably from those for which girls were brought into court. Stealing, acts of carelessness or mischief, and traffic violations were much more frequent among boys than among girls, 78 percent of the boys' cases being referred for these reasons, compared with 21 percent of the girls' cases. The proportion of girls' cases that were referred for truancy, running away, being ungovernable, and sex offenses was 74 percent, compared with 18 percent for the boys.

During 1938, 45 percent of the boys' cases and 36 percent of the girls' cases were "dismissed, adjusted, or held open without further action." Approximately one-third of both boys' and girls' cases were turned over to a probation officer for supervision. In 10 percent of the boys' cases and in 16 percent of the girls' cases the children were committed or referred to an institution.

TABLE 8.—*Reason for reference to court in boys' and in girls' delinquency cases disposed of by 476 courts, 1938*

Reason for reference to court	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	77,289	64,807	12,482			
Reason for reference reported	75,894	63,806	12,088	100	100	100
Stealing	33,514	32,136	1,378	44	50	11
Act of carelessness or mischief and traffic violation	18,737	17,595	1,142	25	28	10
Truancy	4,877	3,415	1,462	7	5	12
Running away	4,799	2,957	1,842	6	5	15
Being ungovernable	6,655	3,412	3,243	9	5	27
Sex offense	4,022	1,624	2,398	5	3	20
Injury to person	1,691	1,437	254	2	2	2
Other reason	1,599	1,230	369	2	2	3
Reason for reference not reported	1,395	1,001	394			

TABLE 9.—*Source of reference to court in boys' and in girls' delinquency cases disposed of by 476 courts, 1938*

Source of reference to court	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	77,289	64,807	12,482			
Source of reference reported	61,753	51,836	9,917	100	100	100
Police	40,208	36,468	3,740	65	70	38
School department	4,129	2,897	1,232	7	6	12
Probation officer	2,355	1,778	577	4	3	6
Other court	1,731	1,541	190	3	3	2
Social agency	1,026	471	555	1	1	5
Parents or relatives	4,742	2,351	2,391	8	5	24
Other individual	6,762	5,682	1,080	11	11	11
Other source	800	648	152	1	1	2
Source of reference not reported	15,536	12,971	2,565			

TABLE 10.—*Places of detention care of boys and of girls dealth with in delinquency cases disposed of by 476 courts, 1938*

Place of detention care	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	77,289	64,807	12,482			
Detention care reported	60,915	51,108	9,807	100	100	100
No detention care	37,628	32,214	5,414	62	63	55
Detention care overnight or longer	23,287	18,894	4,393	38	37	45
Boarding home	553	415	138	1	1	1
Detention home [1]	16,088	12,808	3,280	26	25	33
Other institution	3,151	2,464	687	5	5	7
Jail or police station [2]	2,554	2,406	148	4	5	2
Other place of care [3]	358	298	60	1	(4)	1
Place of care not reported	583	503	80	1	1	1
Detention care not reported	16,374	13,699	2,675			

[1] Includes cases of children cared for part of the time in detention homes and part of the time elsewhere but excludes cases of children also cared for in jails or police stations.
[2] Includes cases of children cared for part of the time in jails or police stations and part of the time elsewhere.
[3] Includes cases of children cared for in more than 1 place but in places other than detention homes, jails, or police stations.
[4] Less than 1 percent.

TABLE 11.—*Disposition of boys' and of girls' delinquency cases disposed of by 476 courts, 1938*

Disposition of case	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	77,289	64,807	12,482			
Disposition reported	76,419	64,137	12,282	100	100	100
Case dismissed, adjusted, or held open without further action	33,082	28,724	4,358	43	45	36
Child supervised by probation officer	26,044	22,097	3,947	34	34	32
Child committed or referred to an institution	8,251	6,300	1,951	11	10	16
State institution for delinquent children	4,212	3,258	954	6	5	8
Other institution for delinquent children	3,087	2,375	712	4	4	6
Penal institution	128	112	16	(1)	(1)	(1)
Other institution	824	555	269	1	1	2
Child committed or referred to an agency	2,484	1,663	821	3	3	7
Public department	1,239	889	350	1	2	3
Other agency	1,245	774	471	2	1	4
Child committed or referred to an individual	933	690	243	1	1	2
Case referred to another court	695	581	114	1	1	1
Fine or costs ordered	708	677	31	1	1	(1)
Runaway returned	2,051	1,523	528	3	2	4
Other disposition of case	2,171	1,882	289	3	3	2
Disposition not reported	870	670	200			

[1] Less than 1 percent.

TABLE 12.—*Previous court experience of boys and of girls dealt with in delinquency cases disposed of by 476 courts, 1938*

Previous court experience	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	77,289	64,807	12,482			
Previous court experience reported	61,483	51,646	9,837	100	100	100
Previous court experience	21,751	19,023	2,728	35	37	28
No previous court experience	39,732	32,623	7,109	65	63	72
Previous court experience not reported	15,806	13,161	2,645			

SUMMARY, DELINQUENCY CASES REPORTED IN 1939

During 1939, 83,758 delinquency cases were disposed of by 473 courts that served areas representing 38 percent of the total population of the United States. Of these, 85 percent were boys' cases and 15 percent were girls' cases. White children were involved in 79 percent of the cases, Negro children in almost 21 percent, and children of other races in less than one percent of the cases.

TABLE 13.—*Race, nativity, and parent nativity of boys and of girls dealt with in delinquency cases disposed of by 473 courts, 1939*

Race, nativity, and parent nativity of child	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	83,758	71,275	12,483			
Race reported	79,045	66,987	12,058	100	100	100
White	62,482	53,274	9,208	79	80	77
Native	48,275	41,570	6,705	61	62	56
Native parentage	33,317	28,607	4,710	42	43	39
Foreign or mixed parentage	11,687	10,424	1,263	15	15	11
Parentage not reported	3,271	2,539	732	4	4	6
Foreign-born	618	527	91	1	1	1
Nativity not reported	13,589	11,177	2,412	17	17	20
Negro	16,393	13,575	2,818	21	20	23
Other race	170	138	32	(1)	(1)	(1)
Race not reported	4,713	4,288	425			

[1] Less than 1 percent.

TABLE 14.—*Age of boys and of girls when referred to court in delinquency cases disposed of by 473 courts, 1939*

Age of child when referred to court	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	83,758	71,275	12,483			
Age reported	82,786	70,528	12,258	100	100	100
Under 10 years	3,144	2,861	283	4	4	2
10 years, under 12	7,470	6,755	715	9	10	6
12 years, under 14	15,992	14,192	1,800	19	20	15
14 years, under 16	33,153	27,751	5,402	40	39	44
16 years, under 18	21,138	17,480	3,658	26	25	30
18 years and over	1,889	1,489	400	2	2	3
Age not reported [1]	972	747	225			

[1] The number of cases included in "age not reported" in this table is not the same as in table 15, because the specific age of some children was not reported. Age groups in this table differ from those in table 15

TABLE 15.—*Age under which juvenile court has original jurisdiction, and age when referred to court of boys and of girls dealt with in delinquency cases disposed of by 473 courts, 1939*

Age of child when referred to court	Total cases	Number of delinquency cases of courts having jurisdiction to [1]—				Percent of delinquency cases of courts having jurisdiction to—			
		16 years	17 years	18 years	21 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	21 years
Total cases	83,758	26,521	18,363	32,645	6,229				
Boys' cases [2]	71,275	23,344	16,244	26,400	5,287				
Age reported	70,423	22,974	16,019	26,149	5,281	100	100	100	100
Under 10 years	2,861	1,276	521	973	91	5	3	4	2
10 years, under 12	6,755	3,196	1,421	1,941	197	14	9	7	4
12 years, under 14	14,192	6,124	3,313	4,104	651	27	21	16	12
14 years, under 16	27,751	11,168	6,840	8,140	1,603	49	43	31	30
16 years, under 17	10,938	839	3,786	5,088	1,225	4	23	20	23
17 years, under 18	6,437	354	115	4,769	1,199	1	1	18	23
18 years and over	1,489	17	23	[3] 1,134	315	[4]	[4]	4	6
Age not reported [5]	852	370	225	251	6				
Girls' cases [6]	12,483	3,177	2,119	6,245	942				
Age reported	12,258	3,037	2,106	6,173	942	100	100	100	100
Under 10 years	283	100	49	126	8	3	2	2	1
10 years, under 12	715	206	107	387	15	7	5	6	1
12 years, under 14	1,800	643	367	712	78	21	18	12	8
14 years, under 16	5,402	1,851	1,035	2,179	337	61	49	35	36
16 years, under 17	2,263	140	501	1,407	215	5	24	23	23
17 years, under 18	1,395	77	42	1,078	198	2	2	17	21
18 years and over	400	20	5	[7] 284	91	1	[4]	5	10
Age not reported	225	140	13	72					

[1] Some courts have jurisdiction under special circumstances beyond the age specified; also courts occasionally deal informally with children who are just beyond the age of juvenile-court jurisdiction.

[2] In boys' cases 146 courts had jurisdiction up to 16 years, 247 up to 17 years, 76 up to 18 years, and 4 up to 21 years.

[3] This is a considerable increase over the number reported during 1937; 1,020 out of the 1,134 cases were from Ohio. The increase may be due to the fact that a law was approved in May 1937 providing that Ohio juvenile courts shall have jurisdiction over persons over 18 years of age who are charged with offenses committed while under 18 years of age.

[4] Less than 1 percent.

[5] The number of cases included in "Age not reported" in this table is not the same as in table 14, because the specific age of some children was not reported. Age groups in this table differ from those in table 14.

[6] In girls' cases 79 courts had jurisdiction up to 16 years, 244 up to 17 years, 146 up to 18 years, and 4 up to 21 years.

[7] Of these, 266 were Ohio cases. (See footnote 3.)

In 63 percent of the boys' cases and 72 percent of the girls' cases in which court experience was reported the children had had no previous court experience. In 79 percent of the boys' cases the referral was for some type of stealing, acts of carelessness or mischief, or traffic violations. Only 22 percent of the girls' cases were referred for these reasons. On the other hand, 72 percent of the girls' cases were referred for truancy, running away, being ungovernable, or sex offenses whereas only 17 percent of the boys' cases were referred for these reasons.

During 1939, 49 percent of the boys' cases and 38 percent of the girls' cases were "dismissed, adjusted, or held open without further action." In approximately one-third of the cases the boys and girls were turned over to a probation officer for supervision. In 9 percent of the boys' cases and in 16 percent of the girls' cases the children were committed or referred to an institution.

TABLE 16.—*Reason for reference to court in boys' and in girls' delinquency cases disposed of by 473 courts, 1939*

Reason for reference to court	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	83,758	71,275	12,483			
Reason for reference reported	83,389	70,968	12,421	100	100	100
Stealing	36,251	34,767	1,484	44	49	12
Act of carelessness or mischief and traffic violation	22,423	21,144	1,279	27	30	10
Truancy	5,148	3,677	1,471	6	5	12
Running away	5,232	3,337	1,895	6	5	15
Being ungovernable	6,500	3,233	3,267	8	4	26
Sex offense	4,182	1,827	2,355	5	3	19
Injury to person	1,967	1,642	325	2	2	3
Other reason	1,686	1,341	345	2	2	3
Reason for reference not reported	369	307	62			

TABLE 17.—*Source of reference to court in boys' and in girls' delinquency cases disposed of by 473 courts, 1939*

Source of reference to court	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	83,758	71,275	12,483			
Source of reference reported	69,727	59,354	10,373	100	100	100
Police	46,959	42,879	4,080	67	72	39
School department	4,162	2,898	1,264	6	5	12
Probation officer	2,698	1,988	710	4	3	7
Other court	1,578	1,448	130	2	2	1
Social agency	988	431	557	1	1	6
Parents or relatives	4,517	2,243	2,274	7	4	22
Other individual	8,211	6,957	1,254	12	12	12
Other source	614	510	104	1	1	1
Source of reference not reported	14,031	11,921	2,110			

TABLE 18.—*Place of detention care of boys and of girls dealt with in delinquency cases disposed of by 473 courts, 1939*

Place of detention care	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	83,758	71,275	12,483			
Detention care reported	67,569	57,456	10,113	100	100	100
No detention care	41,828	36,341	5,487	62	63	54
Detention care overnight or longer	25,741	21,115	4,626	38	37	46
Boarding home	325	208	117	1	(4)	1
Detention home [1]	17,703	14,363	3,340	26	25	33
Other institution	3,358	2,599	759	5	5	7
Jail or police station [2]	3,514	3,238	276	5	6	3
Other place of care [3]	600	518	82	1	1	1
Place of care not reported	241	189	52	(4)	(4)	1
Detention care not reported	16,189	13,819	2,370			

[1] Includes cases of children cared for part of the time in detention homes and part of the time elsewhere but excludes cases of children also cared for in jails or police stations.
[2] Includes cases of children cared for part of the time in jails or police stations and part of the time elsewhere.
[3] Includes cases of children cared for in more than 1 place but in places other than detention homes, jails, or police stations.
[4] Less than 1 percent.

TABLE 19.—*Disposition of boys' and of girls' delinquency cases disposed of by 473 courts, 1939*

Disposition of case	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	83,758	71,275	12,483			
Disposition reported	83,562	71,110	12,452	100	100	100
Case dismissed, adjusted, or held open without further action	39,120	34,438	4,682	47	49	38
Child supervised by probation officer	27,151	23,263	3,888	32	33	31
Child committed or referred to an institution	8,442	6,411	2,031	10	9	16
State institution for delinquent children	4,308	3,302	1,006	5	5	8
Other institution for delinquent children	3,154	2,449	705	4	3	6
Penal institution	153	133	20	(1)	(1)	(1)
Other institution	827	527	300	1	1	2
Child committed or referred to an agency	2,362	1,633	729	3	2	6
Public department	1,300	952	348	2	1	3
Other agency	1,062	681	381	1	1	3
Child committed or referred to an individual	876	696	180	1	1	2
Case referred to another court [2]	749	614	135	1	1	1
Fine or costs ordered	831	792	39	1	1	(1)
Runaway returned	2,261	1,725	536	3	2	4
Other disposition of case	1,770	1,538	232	2	2	2
Disposition not reported	196	165	31			

[1] Less than 1 percent.

TABLE 20.—*Previous court experience of boys and of girls dealt with in delinquency cases disposed of by 473 courts, 1939*

Previous court experience	Delinquency cases					
	Number			Percent		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Total cases	83,758	71,275	12,483			
Previous court experience reported	70,481	59,943	10,538	100	100	100
Previous court experience	24,960	22,048	2,912	35	37	28
No previous court experience	45,521	37,895	7,626	65	63	72
Previous court experience not reported	13,277	11,332	1,945			

PART 2.—FEDERAL JUVENILE OFFENDERS FOR THE 2-YEAR PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 1939

INTRODUCTION

The data in this section of the report are based upon reports received in the Bureau of Prisons of the United States Department of Justice from United States probation officers, from United States marshals, and from institutions that received Federal offenders by court commitment. The information is concerned with the juveniles under 18 years of age charged with violating Federal laws and brought to the attention of Federal authorities during the 2-year period ended June 30, 1939.[1]

Cases of children charged with violating Federal laws may be handled by Federal authorities or may be dealt with under State juvenile-court laws. The policy has been to divert cases of Federal juvenile offenders to State authorities wherever possible and in some communities serious violations of Federal laws as well as minor violations are handled by juvenile courts. Such cases are reported by the juvenile courts and included in the figures presented in part 1, Juvenile-Court Statistics. The number of cases of children dealt with by Federal courts is influenced by several factors such as the age limits of State juvenile-court jurisdiction and the stage of development of State juvenile-court and probation systems.[2]

The data presented in part 2, Federal Juvenile Offenders, cannot be compared directly with the data presented in part 1, Juvenile-Court Statistics, because the information for juvenile-court statistics is assembled from one source, namely, cases disposed of by juvenile courts, whereas statistics for Federal juvenile offenders are assembled from three different sources and represent four stages in the handling of the case. It has been necessary, therefore, to present the material according to the source of the reports received as follows:

Federal juvenile offenders brought to the attention of United States probation officers	Tables 1, 2.
Federal juvenile offenders received in jails and held pending trial	Table 3.
Federal juvenile offenders discharged from detention after being held pending trial	Tables 4–7.
Federal juvenile offenders placed on probation and those received under sentence in jails and Federal institutions	Tables 8–10.

[1] Previous annual reports on Federal juvenile offenders have given data concerning the juveniles under 19 years of age who were dealt with by Federal authorities. In this report data are presented only for the group of juvenile offenders who were under 18 years of age, since the Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act, enacted in 1938, defines a juvenile as a person 17 years of age or under.

[2] In order to provide for improvement in the methods of dealing with the large proportion of the cases of juvenile offenders that cannot be diverted to State authorities, a Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act was passed by Congress and was signed by the President on June 16, 1938. This act applies to persons 17 years of age or under who commit Federal offenses not punishable by death or life imprisonment. The purpose is to do away with long jail detention, to make possible prompt and private hearings, and to broaden the possibilities for disposition and treatment.

Under this act the Attorney General may direct, with the consent of the juvenile, the institution of proceedings on a charge of juvenile delinquency, rather than for a specific offense. Proceedings on a charge of juvenile delinquency may be initiated by the filing of an information instead of by grand-jury indictment. Hearings shall be without a jury and may be held at any time and in chambers. The Attorney General is authorized to provide for the detention of juveniles in a juvenile home or other suitable place. A juvenile "found guilty" of juvenile delinquency may be placed on probation or committed to the custody of the Attorney General, who may designate a public or private agency for custody, care, subsistence, education, and training.

FEDERAL JUVENILE OFFENDERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICERS

For the judicial districts having United States probation officers the statistics presented in tables 1 and 2 include all cases of Federal juvenile offenders that are disposed of officially by Federal authorities. There were probation officers in Puerto Rico and in 80 of the 84 Federal districts in continental United States during the period July 1, 1937–June 30, 1939. Statistics for the districts not covered, where no probation officer was on duty, are included with those reported by other districts whenever the offenders were referred to United States probation officers in the adjoining districts. Reports of the District of Columbia are not included, since the administrative relationship of the District of Columbia courts to the Department of Justice differs from that of other Federal courts.

TABLE 1.—*Total cases and movement of cases of Federal juvenile offenders brought to the attention of United States probation officers in each Federal judicial district during the 2-year period ended June 30, 1939*

Federal judicial district [1]	Cases brought to the attention of United States probation officers								
	July 1, 1937–June 30, 1938				July 1, 1938–June 30, 1939				
	Cases carried over, July 1, 1937	New cases	Total cases dealt with	Cases disposed of	Cases carried over, July 1, 1938	New cases	Total cases dealt with	Cases disposed of	Cases carried over, June 30, 1939
Total	448	1,699	2,147	1,873	274	1,783	2,057	1,801	256
Alabama:									
Northern	11	45	56	38	18	68	86	67	19
Middle	9	24	33	23	10	14	24	24	--
Southern	8	20	28	27	1	13	14	8	6
Arizona	18	49	67	63	4	29	33	31	2
Arkansas:									
Eastern	18	38	56	52	4	43	47	39	8
Western	19	24	43	42	1	14	15	12	3
California:									
Northern	2	7	9	8	1	18	19	18	1
Southern	1	21	22	22	--	11	11	11	--
Colorado	2	14	16	14	2	24	26	26	--
Connecticut	1	2	3	3	--	4	4	4	--
Florida:									
Northern	3	24	27	23	4	25	29	27	2
Southern	9	40	49	39	10	36	46	42	4
Georgia:									
Northern	14	36	50	43	7	45	52	41	11
Middle	8	31	39	36	3	30	33	29	4
Southern	4	37	41	32	9	32	41	35	6
Idaho	--	1	1	1	--	5	5	3	2
Illinois:									
Northern	4	19	23	22	1	40	41	38	3
Eastern	4	17	21	21	--	11	11	9	2
Southern	5	15	20	20	--	10	10	10	--
Indiana:									
Northern	1	16	17	17	--	15	15	15	--
Southern	1	8	9	9	--	--	--	--	--
Iowa:									
Northern	--	1	1	1	--	2	2	2	--
Southern	--	4	4	4	--	5	5	5	--
Kansas	2	14	16	15	1	15	16	12	4
Kentucky:									
Eastern	13	69	82	67	15	59	74	61	13
Western	1	33	34	32	2	44	46	40	6
Lousiana:									
Eastern	7	33	40	37	3	15	18	18	--
Western	2	14	16	12	4	22	26	26	--

[1] There was no probation officer on duty in Delaware, Ohio (Northern), Utah, and Wisconsin (Eastern) during the period July 1, 1937–June 30, 1939; Federal juvenile offenders in these districts were generally referred to the United States probation officers in adjoining districts.

TABLE 1.—*Total cases and movement of cases of Federal juvenile offenders brought to the attention of United States probation officers in each Federal judicial district during the 2-year period ended June 30, 1939*—Continued

Federal judicial district	Cases brought to the attention of United States probation officers							
	July 1, 1937–June 30, 1938				July 1, 1938–June 30, 1939			
	Cases carried over, July 1, 1937	New cases	Total cases dealt with	Cases disposed of	Cases carried over, July 1, 1938	New cases	Total cases dealt with	Cases disposed of	Cases carried over, June 30, 1939
Maine	1	4	5	5		3	3	3	
Maryland	2	20	22	21	1	25	26	25	1
Massachusetts	8	3	11	4	7	8	15	8	7
Michigan:									
Eastern	3	25	28	27	1	41	42	41	1
Western		7	7	7		2	2	2	
Minnesota	2	9	11	9	2	8	10	10	
Mississippi:									
Northern	10	16	26	24	2	20	22	19	3
Southern	15	46	61	32	29	38	67	55	12
Missouri:									
Eastern	8	30	38	36	2	23	25	20	5
Western	10	25	35	24	11	43	54	51	3
Montana		2	2	2		27	27	23	4
Nebraska	1	8	9	8	1	4	5	5	
Nevada	1	6	7	5	2	8	10	10	
New Hampshire		2	2	2		1	1	1	
New Jersey	2	14	16	16		10	10	10	
New Mexico	7	11	18	17	1	8	9	9	
New York:									
Northern	1	1	2	1	1	7	8	7	1
Eastern	4	4	8	7	1	17	18	17	1
Southern	4	19	23	22	1	16	17	16	1
Western	9	16	25	21	4	20	24	21	3
North Carolina:									
Eastern	3	23	26	25	1	36	37	37	
Middle	9	22	31	31		32	32	17	15
Western	8	33	41	34	7	53	60	51	9
North Dakota	1	5	6	6		5	5	4	1
Ohio:									
Northern						23	23	23	
Southern	11	37	48	45	3	28	31	30	1
Oklahoma:									
Northern	4	22	26	26		8	8	7	1
Eastern	12	36	48	43	5	21	26	25	1
Western	14	16	30	26	4	15	19	18	1
Oregon		8	8	8		4	4	4	
Pennsylvania:									
Eastern		7	7	7		17	17	17	
Middle	1	14	15	14	1	10	11	7	4
Western	6	22	28	24	4	28	32	27	5
Rhode Island		6	6	5	1	9	10	8	2
South Carolina:									
Eastern	23	29	52	42	10	37	47	37	10
Western		29	29	19	10	14	24	23	1
South Dakota	2	18	20	18	2	4	6	3	3
Tennessee:									
Eastern	2	36	38	35	3	44	47	39	8
Middle	19	15	34	15	19	21	40	25	15
Western	4	15	19	18	1	20	21	19	2
Texas:									
Northern	4	26	30	28	2	46	48	47	1
Eastern	14	19	33	25	8	15	23	18	5
Southern	10	23	33	31	2	11	13	13	
Western	6	126	132	130	2	119	121	107	14
Utah		8	8	8					
Vermont	1		1	1		1	1	1	
Virginia:									
Eastern	4	39	43	41	2	29	31	31	
Western	2	28	30	28	2	59	61	51	10
Washington:									
Eastern	3	7	10	10		4	4	3	1
Western	1	10	11	10	1	31	32	31	1
West Virginia:									
Northern		3	3	3		12	12	12	
Southern	25	77	102	87	15	42	57	51	6
Wisconsin: Western	4	6	10	8	2	2	4	4	
Wyoming		10	10	9	1	2	3	2	1
Puerto Rico						3	3	3	

TABLE 2.—*Population 15 to 17 years of age, inclusive,[1] in 1940, and total cases and movement of cases of Federal juvenile offenders brought to the attention of United States probation officers in each geographic division during the 2-year period ended June 30, 1939*

Geographic division	Population 15 to 17 years of age in 1940 [1]		Cases brought to the attention of United States probation officers																	
			July 1, 1937–June 30, 1938								July 1, 1938–June 30, 1939									
			Cases carried over July 1, 1937		New cases		Total cases dealt with		Cases disposed of		Cases carried over July 1, 1938		New cases		Total cases dealt with		Cases disposed of		Cases carried over June 30, 1939	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total [2]	7,405,920	100	448	100	1,699	100	2,147	100	1,873	100	274	100	1,783	100	2,057	100	1,801	100	256	100
Four northern divisions	4,063,910	55	97	22	378	22	475	22	429	23	46	17	432	24	478	23	431	24	47	18
New England	452,422	6	11	3	17	1	28	1	20	1	8	3	26	1	34	1	25	1	9	3
Middle Atlantic	1,455,260	20	27	6	97	5	124	6	112	6	12	4	125	7	137	7	122	7	15	6
East North Central	1,409,750	19	33	7	150	9	183	9	176	9	7	3	172	10	179	9	172	10	7	3
West North Central	746,478	10	26	6	114	7	140	6	121	7	19	7	109	6	128	6	112	6	16	6
Three southern divisions	2,534,496	34	316	70	1,167	69	1,483	69	1,267	68	216	79	1,177	66	1,393	68	1,196	66	197	77
South Atlantic [2]	1,068,002	14	114	25	471	28	585	27	504	27	81	30	507	28	588	29	509	28	79	31
East South Central	674,041	9	92	20	319	19	411	19	311	17	100	36	341	19	441	21	357	20	84	33
West South Central	792,453	11	110	25	377	22	487	23	452	24	35	13	329	19	364	18	330	18	34	13
Two western divisions	689,065	9	35	8	154	9	189	9	177	9	12	4	171	10	183	9	171	10	12	5
Mountain	236,717	3	28	6	101	6	129	6	119	6	10	3	103	6	113	6	104	6	9	4
Pacific	452,348	6	7	2	53	3	60	3	58	3	2	1	68	4	70	3	67	4	3	1
Puerto Rico	118,449	2	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	3	(3)	3	(3)	3	(3)	------	------

[1] Very few Federal juvenile offenders are under 15 years of age.
[2] Excludes the District of Columbia because the administrative relation of the District of Columbia courts to the Department of Justice differs from that of other Federal courts.
[3] Less than 1 percent.

FEDERAL JUVENILE OFFENDERS RECEIVED IN JAILS AND HELD PENDING TRIAL

Data presented in table 3 concerning the number of Federal juvenile offenders received in jails and held pending trial are obtained from reports submitted to the Bureau of Prisons by United States marshals.

TABLE 3.—*Age and sex of Federal juvenile offenders received in jails and held pending trial during each fiscal year ended June 30, 1936–39*

Year, and age of offender	Offenders received in jail and held pending trial					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1939						
Total	1,036	100	922	100	114	100
Under 15 years	101	10	87	9	14	12
15 years	145	14	125	14	20	17
16 years	265	25	229	25	36	32
17 years	525	51	481	52	44	39
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1938						
Total	1,136	100	1,001	100	135	100
Under 15 years	109	10	90	9	19	14
15 years	150	13	122	12	28	21
16 years	311	27	278	28	33	24
17 years	566	50	511	51	55	41
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1937						
Total	964	100	863	100	101	100
Under 15 years	75	8	64	8	11	11
15 years	152	16	132	15	20	20
16 years	280	29	250	29	30	30
17 years	457	47	417	48	40	39
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1936						
Total	907	100	822	100	85	100
Under 15 years	81	9	66	8	15	18
15 years	129	14	113	14	16	19
16 years	250	28	222	27	28	33
17 years	447	49	421	51	26	30

FEDERAL JUVENILE OFFENDERS DISCHARGED FROM DETENTION AFTER BEING HELD PENDING TRIAL

The figures covering Federal juvenile offenders discharged from detention after being held pending trial (tables 4 to 7) are also reported by United States marshals and include all cases of juveniles who were discharged during the year—both those received for detention prior to the beginning of the year and those received during the year. The figures do not include cases of offenders received for detention who were not discharged during the year.

TABLE 4.—*Place of detention pending trial of Federal juvenile offenders of each sex discharged from detention during the years ended June 30, 1938 and 1939*

Place of detention pending trial	Offenders discharged from detention after being held for trial					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1939						
Total cases	1,359	100	1,234	100	125	100
County and city institutions	1,142	84	1,042	85	100	80
Federal correctional institutions and detention headquarters	79	6	79	6	----	----
Juvenile detention homes	122	9	104	8	18	14
Other institutions	16	1	9	1	7	6
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1938						
Total cases	1,441	100	1,288	100	153	100
County and city institutions [1]	1,270	88	1,141	89	129	84
Federal correctional institutions and detention headquarters [1]	90	6	90	7	----	----
Juvenile detention homes	66	5	53	4	13	9
Other institutions	15	1	4	(2)	11	7

[1] In earlier years the terms "local jail" and "Federal jail" were used. The wording in this table represents the terminology of the 1939 report on Federal Offenders, issued by the Bureau of Prisons.
[2] Less than 1 percent.

TABLE 5.—*Type of discharge of Federal juvenile offenders of each sex discharged from detention during the years ended June 30, 1938 and 1939*

Type of discharge	Offenders discharged from detention after being held pending trial			
	Total		Boys	Girls
	Number	Percent		
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1939				
Total	1,359	100	1,234	125
Released on bail or recognizance	336	25	303	33
On bail	287	21	260	27
On recognizance	49	4	43	6
Not released on bail or recognizance	1,023	75	931	92
Turned over to State authorities	106	8	94	12
Case dismissed	104	8	85	19
Placed on probation	276	20	262	14
Sentence suspended	10	1	10	----
Fine paid	1	(1)	1	----
Committed to—				
Federal penitentiary, reformatory, or State institution	309	23	301	8
Jail	97	7	95	2
Juvenile escaped	7	(1)	7	----
Transferred to immigration authorities	34	3	33	1
Transferred to another Federal district	7	(1)	6	1
Other type, or type not reported	72	5	37	35
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1938				
Total	1,441	100	1,288	153
Released on bail or recognizance	402	28	369	33
On bail	362	25	335	27
On recognizance	40	3	34	6
Not released on bail or recognizance	1,039	72	919	120
Turned over to State authorities	99	7	93	6
Case dismissed	112	8	87	25
Placed on probation	204	14	181	23
Sentence suspended	19	1	16	3
Fine paid	2	(1)	2	----
Committed to—				
Federal penitentiary, reformatory, or State institution	318	22	302	16
Jail	155	11	149	6
Juvenile escaped	7	(1)	7	----
Transferred to immigration authorities	34	2	33	1
Transferred to another Federal district	25	2	25	----
Other type, or type not reported	64	5	24	40

[1] Less than 1 percent.

TABLE 6.—*Length of detention pending trial of Federal juvenile offenders of each sex discharged from detention during the years ended June 30, 1938 and 1939*

Length of detention pending trial	Offenders discharged from detention after being held pending trial			
	Total		Boys	Girls
	Number	Percent		
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1939				
Total cases	1,359	100	1,234	125
Less than 3 days	269	20	246	23
3 days, less than 1 week	212	16	197	15
1 week, less than 2	238	18	214	24
2 weeks, less than 1 month	291	21	270	21
1 month, less than 2	208	15	186	22
2 months, less than 3	88	6	74	14
3 months, less than 6	51	4	45	6
6 months, less than 1 year	2	(1)	2	----
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1938				
Total cases	1,441	100	1,288	153
Less than 3 days	200	14	183	17
3 days, less than 1 week	231	16	214	17
1 week, less than 2	202	14	175	27
2 weeks, less than 1 month	337	23	304	33
1 month, less than 2	245	17	217	28
2 months, less than 3	137	10	114	23
3 months, less than 6	87	6	80	7
6 months, less than 1 year	2	(1)	1	1

[1] Less than 1 percent.

TABLE 7.—*Length of detention pending trial by type of discharge in cases of Federal juvenile offenders discharged from detention during the years ended June 30, 1938 and 1939*

Length of detention pending trial	Offenders discharged from detention after being held for trial					
	Total		Released on bail or recognizance		Not released on bail or recognizance	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1939						
Total cases	1,359	100	336	100	1,023	100
Less than 3 days	269	20	150	45	119	12
3 days, less than 1 week	212	16	86	25	126	12
1 week, less than 2	238	18	39	12	199	19
2 weeks, less than 1 month	291	21	37	11	254	25
1 month, less than 2	208	15	16	5	192	19
2 months, less than 3	88	6	6	2	82	8
3 months, less than 6	51	4	2	(1)	49	5
6 months, less than 1 year	2	(1)	----	----	2	(1)
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1938						
Total cases	1,441	100	402	100	1,039	100
Less than 3 days	200	14	129	32	71	7
3 days, less than 1 week	231	16	127	32	104	10
1 week, less than 2	202	14	63	16	139	13
2 weeks, less than 1 month	337	23	51	13	286	28
1 month, less than 2	245	17	22	5	223	21
2 months, less than 3	137	10	5	1	132	13
3 months, less than 6	87	6	5	1	82	8
6 months, less than 1 year	2	(1)	----	----	2	(1)

[1] Less than 1 percent.

FEDERAL JUVENILE OFFENDERS PLACED ON PROBATION AND THOSE RECEIVED UNDER SENTENCE IN JAILS AND FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS

The figures concerning Federal juvenile offenders placed on probation and those received under sentence in jails and Federal institutions (tables 8 to 10) include all Federal offenders under 18 years of age received from courts by United States probation officers for supervision during the year and all Federal offenders under 18 years received under sentence in county and city jails, Federal detention headquarters, correctional institutions, penitentiaries, reformatories, and prison camps. These comprise the great majority of juvenile offenders for whom Federal authorities continue responsibility and supervision after disposition of the case.

TABLE 8.—*Sex of Federal juvenile offenders placed under the supervision of United States probation officers, and of offenders received under sentence in jails and in Federal institutions during each fiscal year ended June 30, 1936–39*

Year, and sex of juvenile	Federal juvenile offenders		
	Placed under supervision of United States probation officers	Received under sentence in—	
		Jails [1]	Federal institutions [2]
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1939			
Total	613	131	197
Boys	568	120	194
Girls	45	11	3
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1938			
Total	453	189	182
Boys	418	178	172
Girls	35	11	10
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1937			
Total	433	161	153
Boys	406	152	151
Girls	27	9	2
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1936			
Total	385	171	88
Boys	364	162	86
Girls	21	9	2

[1] Includes Federal correctional institutions and detention headquarters and county and city jails.
[2] Includes penitentiaries, reformatories, and prison camps.

TABLE 9.—*Age of Federal juvenile offenders placed under the supervision of United States probation officers and of offenders received under sentence in jails and in Federal institutions during each fiscal year ended June 30, 1936–39*

Year, and age of juvenile	Federal juvenile offenders					
	Placed under supervision of United States probation officers		Received under sentence in—			
			Jails [1]		Federal institutions [2]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1939						
Total	613	100	131	100	197	100
Under 16 years	120	20	18	14	5	2
16 years	162	26	32	24	39	20
17 years	331	54	81	62	153	78
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1938						
Total	453	100	189	100	182	100
Under 16 years	93	21	17	9	4	2
16 years	147	32	42	22	29	16
17 years	213	47	130	69	149	82
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1937						
Total	433	100	161	100	153	100
Under 16 years	81	19	17	11	6	4
16 years	138	32	42	26	21	14
17 years	214	49	102	63	126	82
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1936						
Total	385	100	171	100	88	100
Under 16 years	71	18	26	15	3	3
16 years	106	28	37	22	22	25
17 years	208	54	108	63	63	72

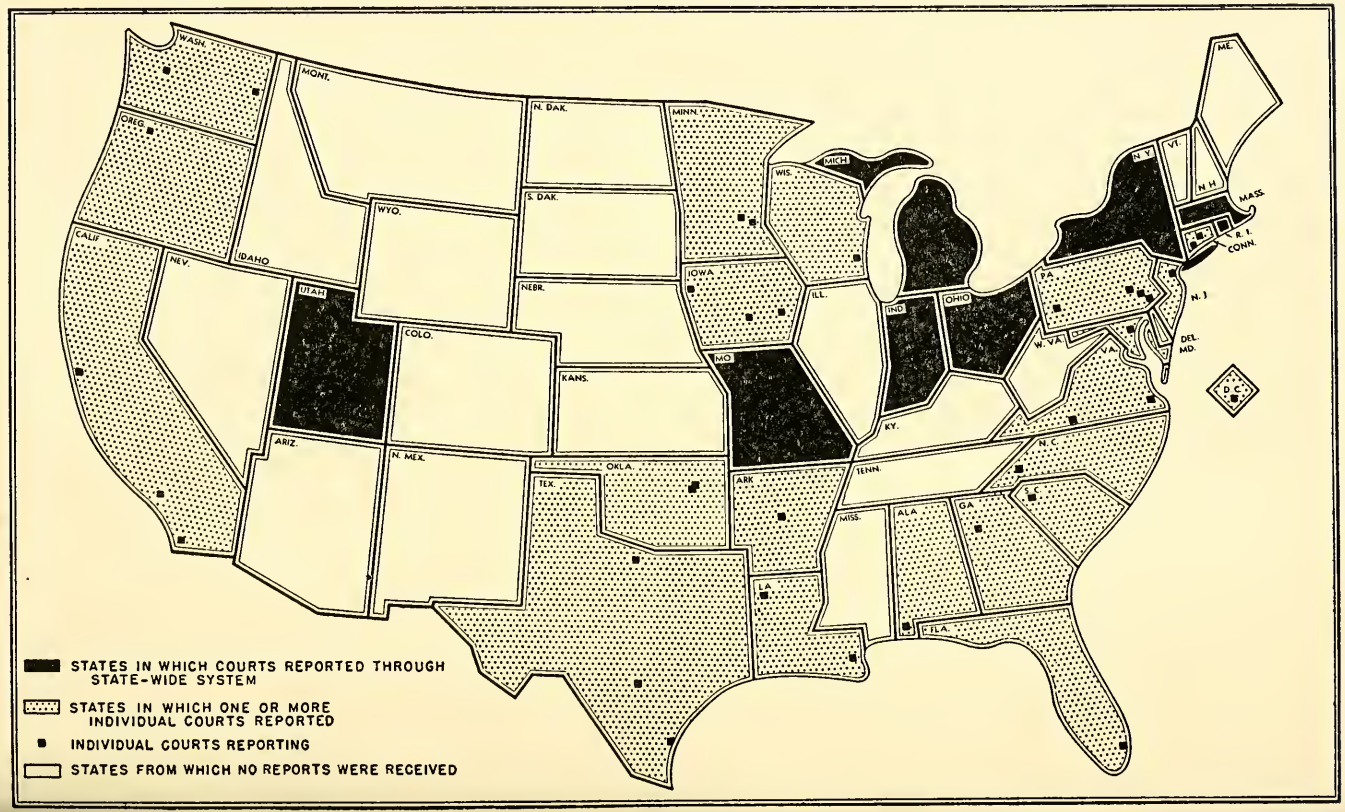
[1] Includes Federal correctional institutions and detention headquarters and county and city jails.
[2] Includes penitentiaries, reformatories, and prison camps.

TABLE 10.—*Offense charged in cases of Federal juvenile offenders placed under the supervision of United States probation officers, and offenders received under sentence in jails and in Federal institutions during each fiscal year ended June 30, 1936–39*

Year, and offense charged	Federal juvenile offenders					
	Placed under supervision of United States probation officers		Received under sentence in—			
			Jails [1]		Federal institutions [2]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1939						
Total	613	100	131	100	197	100
Violation of—						
Liquor laws	205	33	16	12	25	13
Immigration Act	2	[3]	55	42	1	[3]
Motor Vehicle Theft Act	132	22	15	12	89	45
Postal laws	91	15	12	9	35	18
Laws against counterfeiting and forging	54	9	11	8	22	11
Interstate Commerce Act (Car Seal Act)	12	2	2	2	8	4
Narcotic Drug Act	13	2	5	4	2	1
White Slave Traffic Act	1	[3]	----	----	2	1
Other laws or offense not reported	103	17	15	11	13	7
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1938						
Total	453	100	189	100	182	100
Violation of—						
Liquor laws	172	38	27	14	20	11
Immigration Act	4	1	99	52	1	[3]
Motor Vehicle Theft Act	87	19	18	10	94	52
Postal laws	72	16	15	8	25	14
Laws against counterfeiting and forging	55	12	6	3	19	10
Interstate Commerce Act (Car Seal Act)	14	3	4	2	5	3
Narcotic Drug Act	6	1	3	2	2	1
White Slave Traffic Act	5	1	1	1	2	1
Other laws or offense not reported	38	9	16	8	14	8
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1937						
Total	433	100	161	100	153	100
Violation of—						
Liquor laws	192	44	21	13	25	16
Immigration Act	1	[3]	90	56	----	----
Motor Vehicle Theft Act	101	23	13	8	65	43
Postal laws	46	11	1	1	14	9
Laws against counterfeiting and forging	42	10	4	2	17	11
Interstate Commerce Act (Car Seal Act)	3	1	1	1	11	7
Narcotic Drug Act	5	1	2	1	2	1
White Slave Traffic Act	4	1	----	----	1	1
Other laws or offense not reported	39	9	29	18	18	12
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1936						
Total	385	100	171	100	88	100
Violation of—						
Liquor laws	187	49	32	19	17	19
Immigration Act	----	----	84	49	3	4
Motor Vehicle Theft Act	49	13	9	5	41	47
Postal laws	67	17	10	6	8	9
Laws against counterfeiting and forging	19	5	5	3	5	6
Interstate Commerce Act (Car Seal Act)	12	3	1	1	2	2
Narcotic Drug Act	4	1	----	----	2	2
White Slave Traffic Act	2	[3]	----	----	1	1
Other laws or offense not reported	45	12	30	17	9	10

[1] Includes Federal correctional institutions and detention headquarters and county and city jails.
[2] Includes penitentiaries, reformatories, and prison camps.
[3] Less than 1 percent.

Geographic Distribution of Areas That Reported Juvenile-Court Statistics in 1939



BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 9999 06315 218 3

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 9999 05708 5985

OCT 14 1943